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Cat. No. 43-196

OWNER'S MANUAL

Please read before using this equipment.

ET-196

Hands-Free Telephone Headset

RadioShack®

FEATURES

Your RadioShack ET-196 Hands-Free Telephone Headset makes many existing home or office modular phones more flexible and easy to use. When you use the headset, your hands are free to do other things. The 7-foot long headset cable lets you move freely, and the adjustable microphone boom swings up and down so you can wear the headset over either ear.

You can use the ET-196 Hands-Free Telephone Headset with most modular phones that have a keypad or dial on the phone's base. The headset does not work with phones having the keypad or dial on the handset, or with some electronic phone systems.

The ET-196's features include:

Quick-Disconnect Plug — lets you disconnect the headset from the phone without disconnecting the call, so you can step away from the phone without removing the headset. You can return to the conversation by simply reconnecting the headset.

Studio-Quality Electret Condenser Microphone — clearly transmits your voice and reduces background noise.

Adjustable Volume — gives you full control of the volume level.

Microphone Muting — lets you turn the headset's microphone off to prevent callers from hearing a private, in-room conversation.

Adjustable Microphone Boom — lets you adjust the microphone's position so callers can hear you more clearly.

Automatic Power-Off — temporarily turns off the headset amplifier when there is no conversation on the line for 15–30 seconds, to save battery power.

Lapel Clip — lets you securely anchor the headset's cord to your clothing to prevent the headset cord from pulling on the headset.

Headset Hanger — provides a convenient place to store the headset.

Note: Your ET-196 requires two AA batteries (not supplied) for power.

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WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or shock hazard, do not expose this product to rain or moisture.

CAUTION

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK.
DO NOT OPEN.

CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER OR BACK. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

This symbol is intended to alert you to the presence of uninsulated dangerous voltage within the product's enclosure that might be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock. Do not open the product's case.

This symbol is intended to inform you that important operating and maintenance instructions are included in the literature accompanying this product.

READ THIS BEFORE INSTALLATION

We have designed your ET-196 Hands-Free Telephone Headset to conform to federal regulations, and you can connect it to most telephone lines. This device places no additional load on the phone line. It has a *ringer equivalence number*, or REN, of 0. Therefore, you can use it without affecting the operation of other telephone devices connected to the same phone line.

FCC STATEMENT

The Hands-Free Telephone Headset is not compatible with hearing aids. Therefore, the FCC prohibits its use in the following locations:

- Any public or semipublic location where coin-operated or credit card telephones are found.
- Elevators, highways, and tunnels (automobile, subway, railroad, or pedestrian), where a person with impaired hearing might be isolated in an emergency.
- Places where telephones are installed specifically to alert emergency authorities such as fire, police, or medical assistance personnel.
- Hospital rooms, residential healthcare facilities, convalescent homes, and prisons, where telephones are used specifically for signaling life-threatening or emergency situations, if alternative signaling methods are not available.
- Work stations for hearing-impaired personnel.
- Hotel, motel, or apartment building lobbies.
- Stores where telephones are used to order merchandise.
- Public transportation terminals where telephones are used to call taxis, reserve lodging, or rent automobiles.

- Some hotel and motel rooms. (At least ten percent of the rooms must contain hearing-aid compatible telephones, and hearing-aid compatible telephones must be provided to hearing impaired customers upon request.)

Note: You must not connect your headset to a coin-operated telephone system.

Your Telephone Headset is ETL listed to UL standards and meets all applicable FCC standards.

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PREPARATION

INSTALLING/REPLACING BATTERIES

You need two AA batteries to power the ET-196. For the longest operation and best performance, we recommend alkaline batteries, such as RadioShack Cat. No. 23-557.

Cautions:

- Use only fresh batteries of the required size and recommended type.
- Do not mix old and new batteries, different types of batteries (standard, alkaline, or rechargeable), or rechargeable batteries of different capacities.

Follow these steps to install batteries.

1. Use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the screw on the battery compartment cover.

illustration

2. Slide the battery compartment cover in the direction of the arrow to remove it.

illustration

3. Put two AA batteries into the compartment as indicated by the polarity symbols (+ and –) marked inside.

illustration

4. Replace the cover and secure it with the screw.

CHECKING THE BATTERIES

To check the headset's battery power at any time, set ☽/☊ to ☊ and press **BATT**. If the batteries are good, the CHECK indicator lights. If the CHECK indicator does not light (or lights only dimly), replace the batteries.

illustration

Cautions:

- Always remove old or weak batteries. Batteries can leak chemicals that can destroy electronic parts.
- Dispose of old batteries promptly and properly. Do not burn or bury them.

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Caution: To avoid damaging the ET-196, do not connect it directly to a phone line jack or to a phone with the keypad or dial on the handset.

illustration

1. Unplug the phone's modular handset cord from the phone's base and plug it into the **HANDSET** jack on the back of the headset amplifier.
2. Plug one end of the supplied coiled cord into the handset jack on the phone's base.
3. Plug the other end of the coiled cord into the **TELEPHONE** jack on the back of the headset amplifier.
4. Plug the headset's cord into the **HEADSET** jack.

ATTACHING THE HEADSET HANGER

The ET-196 comes with a headset hanger that gives you a convenient place to rest your headset when it is not in use.

To attach the holder, simply insert the headset hanger into the holes on the upper left of the headset amplifier.

illustration

ADJUSTING THE HEADSET

1. Place the headset on top of your head with the earpiece over either ear.
2. Adjust the headset band until it rests with almost no pressure on your ear and the top of your head.

   If the headset is loose, remove it and adjust it inward slightly to tighten it. If the headset is tight, gently pull the headset band out to loosen it.

3. Hold the headset in place, and adjust the microphone boom until it is about even with your chin. Experiment until you find the most comfortable position.

   Caution: The microphone boom swivels on the headset. Do not bend the microphone boom while you adjust it.

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4. Attach the lapel clip to your clothing. Leave enough slack in the cord so you can move your head without pulling the headset.

Note: When you are not using the headset, place it on the headset hanger. Otherwise (if you just lay it down on a flat surface, for example), you might have to repeat these adjustments.

OPERATION

USING THE HEADSET

Note: When you use the Telephone Headset with your phone, you can still use all the features of your phone.

The first time you use the Telephone Headset, slide **VOLUME** on the front of the headset amplifier to the lowest volume level.

illustration

Set **SELECT** (on the right side of the headset amplifier) to **1**. The **SELECT** switch adjusts the microphone's sensitivity to your phone's operation.

illustration

During a call, If the other party indicates that your voice is too loud, too low, or garbled, slide **SELECT** to **2** or **3**, then speak into the microphone again. Leave **SELECT** at the setting where the other party hears you best.

Notes:

- Once you determine which **SELECT** setting works best, you should not need to change it again unless you connect the ET-196 to another phone.
- During a call, if there is no conversation on the phone line for 15 to 30 seconds, the headset amplifier automatically turns off to save battery power. The line remains connected, and when either you or the other party speaks, the headset amplifier automatically turns on again.

MAKING/RECEIVING CALLS

1. To turn on the headset amplifier, set / to .

illustration

2. To make a call, first pick up the phone's handset and place it beside the base, then dial the phone number. When the other party answers, speak into the microphone in a normal voice. Adjust **VOLUME** to a comfortable listening level as the other party speaks.

To receive a call, pick up the phone's handset and place it beside the base, then speak into the microphone in a normal voice. Adjust **VOLUME** to a comfortable listening level when the caller speaks.

Note: To step away from the phone without removing the headset, simply unplug the headset from the amplifier. Reconnect the headset to return to the conversation.

3. When you finish the call, return the phone's handset to the base, or press the phone's switchhook and make another call.
4. To turn off the headset, set ☽/☊ to ☽.

USING MUTE

To talk to someone else in the room without the person on the other end of the phone line hearing your conversation, press **MUTE** during the call. The CHECK indicator lights.

illustration

To resume your conversation, press **MUTE** again. The CHECK indicator turns off.

TROUBLESHOOTING

We do not expect you to have any problems with your Telephone Headset, but if you do, these suggestions might help.

Problem	Suggestion
Trouble transmitting (caller has trouble hearing you), but receiving is OK.	Make sure **SELECT** is correctly set.
	Make sure the microphone boom is not too far away from your mouth.
	Check the headset's battery power (see "Checking the Batteries" on Page 7).
	Make sure the headset's cord is properly connected to the headset amplifier.
	Ensure the phone and phone lines are operating correctly. Check phone line operation by using another phone on the same phone line.
Trouble receiving or headset does not work at all.	Make sure the headset's cord is properly connected to the headset amplifier.
	Make sure the headset is properly connected to the phone (see "Making the Connections" on Page 7) and / is set to .
	Check the headset's battery power (see "Checking the Batteries" on Page 7).
	Ensure the phone and phone lines are operating correctly. Check phone line operation by using another phone on the same phone line.

If you cannot find the problem, take the Telephone Headset to your local RadioShack store for assistance.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Your RadioShack ET-196 Hands-Free Telephone Headset is an example of superior design and craftsmanship. The following suggestions will help you care for your Telephone Headset so you can enjoy it for years.

Keep the headset and amplifier dry. If it gets wet, wipe it dry immediately. Liquids might contain minerals that can corrode the electronic circuits.

Handle the headset and amplifier gently and carefully. Dropping it can damage circuit boards and cases and can cause the headset to work improperly.

Use and store the Telephone Headset only in normal temperature environments. Temperature extremes can shorten the life of electronic devices, damage batteries, and distort or melt plastic parts.

Keep the Telephone Headset away from dust and dirt, which can cause premature wear of parts.

Wipe the headset and amplifier with a damp cloth occasionally to keep it looking new. Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents, or strong detergents to clean the them.

Modifying or tampering with the Telephone Headset's internal components can cause a malfunction and might invalidate its warranty. If your Telephone Headset is not performing as it should, take it to your local RadioShack store for assistance. If the trouble is affecting the telephone lines, the phone company can ask you to disconnect your Telephone Headset until you have resolved the problem.

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THE FCC WANTS YOU TO KNOW

In the unlikely event that the ET-196 causes problems on the phone line, the phone company can temporarily discontinue your service. If this happens, the phone company attempts to notify you in advance. If advance notice is not practical, the phone company notifies you as soon as possible and advises you of your right to file a complaint with the FCC.

Also, the phone company can make changes to its lines, equipment, operations, or procedures that could affect the operation of this unit. The telephone company notifies you of these changes in advance, so you can take the necessary steps to prevent interruption of your telephone service.

Your Telephone Headset might cause TV or radio interference even when it is operating properly. To determine whether your Telephone Headset is causing the interference, disconnect the Telephone Headset. If the interference goes away, your Telephone Headset is causing the interference. Try to eliminate the interference by:

- Moving the Telephone Headset away from the TV or radio
- Contacting your local RadioShack store for help

LIGHTNING

Most telephones have built-in lightning protection circuits to reduce the risk of damage from surges in telephone line and power line current. However, lightning striking the telephone or power lines can damage your phone and the Telephone Headset connected to it.

Lightning damage is not common. Nevertheless, if you live in an area that has severe electrical storms, we suggest that you unplug your phone and the Telephone Headset during storms to reduce the possibility of damage.

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NOTES

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Limited One-Year Warranty

This product is warranted by RadioShack against manufacturing defects in material and workmanship under normal use for one (1) year from the date of purchase from RadioShack company-owned stores and authorized RadioShack franchisees and dealers. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, RadioShack MAKES NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES AND ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THE WRITTEN LIMITED WARRANTIES CONTAINED HEREIN. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, RadioShack SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY TO CUSTOMER OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY WITH RESPECT TO ANY LIABILITY, LOSS OR DAMAGE CAUSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY USE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE PRODUCT OR ARISING OUT OF ANY BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM INCONVENIENCE, LOSS OF TIME, DATA, PROPERTY, REVENUE, OR PROFIT OR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF RadioShack HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Some states do not allow the limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

In the event of a product defect during the warranty period, take the product and the RadioShack sales receipt as proof of purchase date to any RadioShack store. RadioShack will, at its option, unless otherwise provided by law: (a) correct the defect by product repair without charge for parts and labor; (b) replace the product with one of the same or similar design; or (c) refund the purchase price. All replaced parts and products, and products on which a refund is made, become the property of RadioShack. New or reconditioned parts and products may be used in the performance of warranty service. Repaired or replaced parts and products are warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. You will be charged for repair or replacement of the product made after the expiration of the warranty period.

This warranty does not cover: (a) damage or failure caused by or attributable to acts of God, abuse, accident, misuse, improper or abnormal usage, failure to follow instructions, improper installation or maintenance, alteration, lightning or other incidence of excess voltage or current; (b) any repairs other than those provided by a RadioShack Authorized Service Facility; (c) consumables such as fuses or batteries; (d) cosmetic damage; (e) transportation, shipping or insurance costs; or (f) costs of product removal, installation, set-up service adjustment or reinstallation.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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We Service What We Sell *3/97*

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